

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES ELI  
CROWTHER

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel James Eli Crowther, a distinguished officer who served his country and his home state of Pennsylvania throughout his life. As a native of Tyrone, the Colonel was the third Burgess (Mayor) of Tyrone and was serving in that capacity as the American Civil War began.

Colonel Crowther served the Pennsylvania militia in the mid 1800's, where he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Washington Infantry in early August of 1842. From there he was again commissioned as a First Lieutenant for the Tyrone Artillery in early July of 1858. Less than one year later he began service as the Captain of the Tyrone Cavalry. His command of that Cavalry was influential during the first 90 days of service at the beginning of the American Civil War. The Cavalry then became Company D of the 14th Pennsylvania Infantry.

Crowther volunteered as an Officer through the Civil War, commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel in 1861 and then Colonel in March of 1863. It was less than 2 months later that Colonel James E. Crowther was killed in action at Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863.

His service to his country was noble, and his rank was earned through hard work and dedication to American principles and values. The leadership that Colonel Crowther displayed throughout his service and lifetime is to be remembered and respected as our country continues to move forward honoring those values.

In his memory, the Colonel Crowther Foundation was established. This organization's intent is to protect, teach and re-live the rich and storied history of Pennsylvania and continue to honor the distinguished Colonel. As can be found in their mission statement, the Foundation strives to 'create a living heritage environment where preservation is enhanced by demonstration and education.' It is only through our history that we are able to create a future.

As a tribute to this man's great accomplishments the Tyrone Borough Council has declared Saturday August 6th, 2006 to be Colonel Crowther Day. Crowther's military service to the state of Pennsylvania and our country will not be forgotten.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CRAIG  
HARRIS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Craig Harris for his outstanding efforts as a taxicab driver safety advocate. Craig passed away on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at the age of 56.

Craig had been a Las Vegas resident for 28 years and a taxi driver for Yellow-Checker-Star Transportation since 1979. Having been

assaulted and robbed twice by passengers, Craig fully understood the dangers of driving a taxi. A long-time advocate of taxi driver safety, Craig was one of the first to test still cameras in taxis as a deterrent against attacks on drivers. According to his long-time boss and Yellow-Checker-Star's director of operations, Bill Shranko, Craig's work led to camera installation in each of the company's cabs. Since then, Shranko says there has been at least a sixty percent decrease in attacks on drivers. Craig's hard work and advocacy has produced impressive results for driver safety.

In addition to driving a cab forty hours a week and his efforts to promote driver safety, Craig also found time to represent local drivers as a steward for the Industrial Technical Professional Employees Union, helping fired drivers to regain their jobs and making sure that drivers have access to important benefits, including health insurance. He led a campaign to raise thousands of dollars to aid the family of a colleague who was killed while on duty as a cab driver, and always offered to help colleagues and their families when in need.

Born in Los Angeles on October 14, 1949, Craig graduated from Shasta College in Northern California. He worked on newspapers in California and Oklahoma before moving to Las Vegas in 1978 and beginning work on the Trip Sheet magazine for cab drivers in the 1980s. He served as managing editor of the magazine and often wrote articles dealing with driver safety and furthering the fair treatment of drivers. His work helped turn the six-page newspaper of the '80s into the 48-page magazine of today, which reaches over 7,000 monthly readers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Craig Harris for his outstanding service and representation of the taxi drivers of Las Vegas. His tireless efforts to help drivers and their families and his hard work as a driver, journalist, and advocate have greatly contributed to the safety of the profession, and he will be greatly missed.

ALTERNATIVE PLURIPOTENT  
STEM CELL THERAPIES EN-  
HANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition of S. 2754, the Alternative Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. I think we can all agree that stem-cell research holds tremendous promise for advances in health care for all Americans. Stem-cell research may one day lead to treatments for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, spinal-cord injuries, Lou Gehrig's disease, strokes, severe burns and many more diseases and injuries.

However, Mr. Speaker, five years ago, the President made a self-serving and short-sighted decision to limit federally funded embryonic stem-cell research to stem-cell lines that already existed. At that time, on August 9, 2001, the President promised 78 stem-cell lines would be available to federal researchers, yet five years later, there are at most, only 22 lines available. Even worse, Mr.

Speaker, many of these lines are contaminated with animal cells that make them unusable for human-therapeutic study.

So, Mr. Speaker, here we are half a decade later, and we are considering S. 2754 and another Republican bill, S. 3504, the Fetus Farming Prohibition Act. Let there be no mistake, Mr. Speaker, these proposals are nothing but a smoke screen; they were introduced to give political cover to Republican members who didn't vote for the embryonic stem-cell bill. I have no problem with measures that would encourage development of stem-cell lines from nonembryonic methods and prohibit embryo implantation for the purpose of deriving stem-cell lines. However, the real issue here is the President's policy that has prohibited federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research.

Let me be clear, neither of these Republican-sham bills is in any way a viable alternative to the measure the House passed last year, H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. That legislation would allow federal funding for research on embryonic stem-cell lines regardless of the date on which they were derived. Researchers and scientists would be eligible to utilize their federal funds for research on a new stem-cell line as long as their work met the strict ethical guidelines contained in the bill. Those rules restrict stem-cell lines to embryos that were created originally for fertility purposes, and that are no longer needed. This legislation will take the President's political shackles off our researchers and scientists and allow them to expand the number of stem-cell lines that are eligible for federally funded research.

The Senate has finally acted, passing H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, this afternoon. So, there is now, finally, a historic opportunity to fund research that holds incredible promise, that could lead to incredible medical breakthroughs. So, what does the President do? He pledges yet again to veto embryonic stem-cell research legislation.

How out of touch can he be? Mr. Speaker, the President has promised to veto hope; hope for the millions of Americans who have cancer or Lou Gehrig's disease or diabetes or Parkinson's disease. He has promised to veto hope for victims of cancer and Alzheimer's disease. I am shocked but not surprised that President Bush has said that his very first veto will be to block this legislation. As usual, President Bush and his rightwing Republican allies are way out on the political margins. So, if you're counting votes Mr. President, mine will be to override. My vote will be for all those Americans who want us to put their needs first, and political paybacks, second. I will vote to override the President's shameful veto when the House again takes up H.R. 810, and I urge all my colleagues to vote to override the President's veto. This vote is the key vote showing whether Congress is genuinely committed to effective federally funded embryonic stem-cell research, and most of all, restoring hope to millions of sick Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ELLIS PARK

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of the House an historical day